

London, David Milne

Oct 1744 - April 1745

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PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

Oct. 19, 1914

President Falconer, LL.D.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear President Falconer:

I recently received a letter from the Secretary of The Graduates Society of McGill University proposing that the next Canadian Contingent should contain a bat~~al~~ion formed exclusively of Canadian University men.

I enclose a copy of my reply. While we desire that as many of our graduates and undergraduates as possible should offer for overseas service, we are anxious that the students now in attendance should complete their Session, even if, in view of the special circumstances, the terminal examinations should, at least for them, be brought on somewhat earlier than usual. It is reasonable to suppose that, if the Universities unite in this view, the Department of Militia might consent that, even if the Second Contingent should leave Canada before the close of the University Session, our students, by continuing their training here, might be regarded as qualified for a place in that Contingent, especially as the whole Contingent would, no doubt, be kept for some time in England before being sent to the front. How would such a proposal be regarded by the University of Toronto?

I have suggested in the enclosed letter that a conference of the representatives of the military organizations of the Canadian Universities might be held to discuss the whole situation, but in order to make such discussion effective it would be necessary to have some understanding as to the possibility of those students who volunteer for overseas service being able to secure their Session.

Believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

David M. Gordon

C O P Y

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

Oct. 17, 1914

Wm. Stewart, Esq.,
Secretary of The Graduates Society,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:

Your letters of the 6th inst., addressed to our Registrar, have been submitted to me and I have delayed answering them until your proposals might be considered by our Senate, as we have no Society at Queen's corresponding to The Graduates Society of McGill.

We are very cordially in sympathy with the proposal to organize a unit of Canadian University men ^{for} on overseas service. As you may be aware, a number of the members of the 5th Engineering Corps, Queen's University, have already gone, under Major Macphail, with the First Contingent, and we expect that a good many more will go in the Second Contingent. These men have had considerable instruction and are already efficient.

We are now enrolling and drilling as many of our students as may offer for instruction in military drill and musketry, in the expectation that many of these may, later on, volunteer for overseas service.

We desire that all these should, if possible, get the benefit of their present session at the University, and we think that, even if the Second Canadian Contingent should sail for England before the close of the present session, those who offer for overseas service might, by continuing their military training here until the close of the session, be fully prepared to take their place with the Contingent in England in time for service in the field. If this can be effected the students would secure their Session and would at the same time be efficiently prepared and fully in time for service, as part of the Second Canadian Contingent.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

We would like to have this proposal considered by the other Canadian Universities even if it should, in some cases, involve shortening the session by a few weeks, as it seems to us likely to secure a considerably larger enlistment of students. Satisfactory arrangements could, no doubt, be made with the Department of Militia for carrying it into effect.

We have very few of our Queen's University graduates resident in Kingston, whereas you have many McGill graduates resident in Montreal, as there are also many graduates of the University of Toronto resident in Toronto, but arrangements could probably be made for volunteer University graduates to receive their training at various centres and eventually to unite with the students in forming a Canadian Universities unit for overseas service.

We would suggest that a conference might be held of representatives of the military organizations of the various Universities,- and perhaps in the first instance of representatives from McGill, Toronto and Queen's, - to consider the whole subject of the formation of a Canadian Universities unit and we would be glad to co-operate as fully as possible in carrying out such a proposal. Would the graduates Society of McGill be willing to take the initiative in securing such a conference?

Believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) Daniel M. Gordon.

October 20th, 1914

Rev. Principal Gordon,

Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

My dear Principal Gordon:

The Secretary of our Alumni Association received a communication from the McGill Graduates Association similar to that which was sent to you. I think that their scheme is somewhat vague. If you will allow me I will explain to you what we are doing.

We have received authority from Ottawa for the establishment of an Officers Training Corps in which we expect to have a large enrolment. By the end of the session next spring these men should have sufficient preliminary training to enable them to occupy positions as officers in any new contingents that may be sent to Britain. We hear on all hands from the military authorities that officers are necessary and will be increasingly necessary. Should it turn out that they are not required to volunteer for foreign service they will be of great use for our militia at home. The military authorities assure me that this is quite the best way in which we can serve the country and it is a mistake to turn our students in as privates. Our men are taking it up with enthusiasm. We are shortening hours of instruction so that they may take drill and military instruction, and I hope that we shall have a large enrolment of prospective officers.

There is something to be said for a university unit provided we can get enough university graduates and undergraduates to form such a unit of say 1,000 men, who will volunteer for the next contingent. I doubt

very much whether we shall get a large number from our present undergraduates who are willing to volunteer for the second contingent. Indeed, if my information is correct the number volunteering from everywhere is so large that there will be no difficulty in securing a second contingent. However, I shall lay the matter before the students and ask any who wish to volunteer to let me know so that I may be in a position to tell you what chance there would be of our supplying a reasonable number of men to go as privates in a university company, say in two months' time.

I judge from your letter that you are taking on the whole similar action in Queen's to that which we have been taking in Toronto. If I understand it McGill's position is somewhat different.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

Oct. 24, 1914.

Dear President Falconer:

Although the military training which is being conducted at the several Universities may differ in some respects, yet I assume that at the present stage it is in essentials the same.

It may perhaps be impracticable to form a Canadian Universities Regiment; it certainly would be if all our students were stipulating that they would offer for Overseas Service only on condition that they should receive commissions. It might however, do much to draw our Universities men together if such a regiment could be formed, and we think it very desirable to have a conference of University representatives on the subject. You have no doubt already heard from Principal Peterson, on the matter. He proposes that a Conference should be held at Ottawa Next Saturday. We think that it would be of first importance at such a meeting to consider how the students could secure the present session and at the same time train for Overseas Service, and therefore that representatives at the Conference should be able to speak for their Universities as to the provision to be made for the students' course of study, and not merely as to the arrangements for military training. We shall be glad to be represented at the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel W. Gordon

October 26th, 1914

Principal Gordon,

Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

My dear Principal Gordon:

I had a letter from Principal Peterson the other day with regard to a Conference in Ottawa for a Canadian Universities' Regiment. I shall of course endeavour to co-operate in any way I can with the other universities in doing what seems to be best in the way of a Canadian Universities' Regiment. It seems to me, however, that it is probably a little soon to have a conference until we know more as to what likelihood there is of students volunteering. I am afraid that I have not yet much information that I could lay before such a conference. It is inconvenient for me to go to Ottawa this week, but if Principal Peterson and you decide that it is the best time I will endeavour to go on Friday night.

We have called off all classes after four o'clock each day so that students may take pretty thorough training for the rest of the session. By May these men would be ready to go in as privates and be in better condition than probably most privates. They would also have secured their year.

If you and Principal Peterson still think there should be a conference held on Saturday I will endeavour to go down on Friday night, though my own view is that about the middle of December we should be in a better position to know what to do. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont

October 27th, 1914.

Dear President Falconer,

Soon after the receipt of your letter of yesterday I received a telegram from Principal Peterson to the effect that he had arranged with the Militia authorities to confer with University representatives on Saturday next regarding the Universities' regiment. I think, therefore, that under these circumstances it might be well to have our Conference then, and to discuss various questions that must be considered from the University point of view if such a Regiment is raised. My familiar enemy, gout, has been troubling me somewhat of late, but, if I cannot attend on Saturday, Dean Campon or Professor Campbell will go.

It is of great importance, I think, in connection with the formation of a Universities Regiment, that we arrange to have our students secure their year.

Yours sincerely,

President Falconer,

The University of Toronto.

Daniel W. Gordon

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October 28th, 1914

Principal Gordon,

Queen's University,

Kingston, Ont.

My dear Principal Gordon:

I also received a telegram from Principal Paterson with regard to a conference of the Universities next Saturday. Since he has called it we must of course participate, and I am asking Professor Lang and Professor Fotheringham who are both deeply interested in our military movements to represent us at the conference.

We have already made arrangements with regard to the men who have gone to the front with the first contingent. It will be quite impossible for us to decide this week what can be done for men who join next year. Our Councils expect to discuss that during the winter, and possibly to have some arrangements made if necessary with regard to the spring examinations. I do not know what we can say at the conference on this matter. I agree with you that our men should complete the present session, and I have no doubt that our Faculty will be glad to enable them to do so, even if it were necessary to have earlier examinations in order to join the contingent.

I am sorry that you are suffering from your old trouble, and I hope that it will soon be quite better. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

Dec. 15, 1914

Dear President Falconer:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. regarding the question of reciprocity between the Medical Council of Ontario and the General Medical Council in Great Britain.

On the 23rd October this subject was considered by the Medical Faculty of Queen's University, and the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved that in the opinion of the Medical Faculty of Queen's University the time is opportune to establish reciprocal relations between the General Medical Council of Great Britain and the Medical Council of Ontario,

and Resolved that the Faculty suggest to the Officers and Executive of the Ontario Council that a special meeting of the Council be held at the earliest possible moment to deal with this important matter".

This resolution was duly communicated to the Secretary of the Ontario Medical Council. I am sure that, if the matter had been formally brought before our Board of Trustees and Senate, they would have been as unanimous as the Medical Faculty in commending the effort to secure reciprocity.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel M. Gordon

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December 17th, 1914

Dear Principal Gordon:

As far as I can see March 21st would be the most suitable Sunday for me to go to Kingston. I find that in February my engagements either out of the city at the end or beginning of the week together with the visits of some preachers from outside make it impossible for me to leave on any of those Sundays.

Yours sincerely,

President.

Principal Gordon,
Queen's University,
Kingston.

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December 19th, 1914

My dear Dr. Gordon:

I am very sorry that neither the 14th of March nor the 28th will suit me. I am afraid that the 21st is the only day that I have free. I can hardly leave when visitors are coming who have not been here before, and as I said, I have week end engagements that would prevent me from getting to Kingston in time.

I suppose you have no service on Easter Sunday, the 4th of April. If you had I could do for you on that day, but perhaps it would be best to postpone my visit until the opening of next year. I am sorry that our arrangements have not worked out so that I could have been able to address the students at Queen's this year. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Principal Gordon,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

December 23rd, 1914

Rev. Principal Gordon,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

My dear Principal Gordon:

I am putting down the 4th of April as the day for my visit to Kingston. I am sorry that it will be impossible for me to go earlier, but I shall be glad to be with you then.

With best wishes for the New Year from us all to you whose thoughts I know are often at the front.

Yours sincerely,

President.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

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Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

March 4, 1915

President Falconer, LL.D.,
The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear President Falconer:

I have to acknowledge your favour of the 3rd inst. As our Senate has already agreed to remit one Pass subject to those who pass the Proficiency Test (Certificate A) for the Officers' Training Corps, we would be gratified if the Department of Education would extend similar consideration to candidates for Specialists' Certificates. We would therefore, be ready to join with you in approaching the Department of Education on the subject. In what way would you suggest that our joint action should be taken? If separate communications were sent to the Department from the two Universities it would be desirable that these should be received by the Minister about the same time.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel W. Gordon

March 5th, 1915

Ref. Principal Gordon,
Queen's University,
Kingston.

Dear Principal Gordon:

I am glad to get your letter. I spoke to the Superintendent of Education to-day and he thinks that it would be advisable for each University to petition the Department of Education directly with regard to their acknowledging specialists' certificates for which one subject is lacking on the part of those who have undertaken the proficiency test for the Officers' Training Corps.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

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Queen's University,
Kingston, Ont.

March 13, 1915

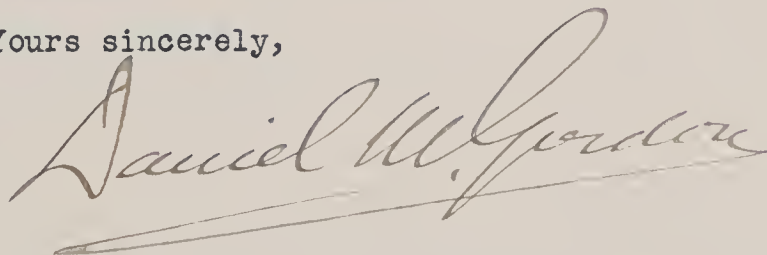
President Falconer, LL.D.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear President Falconer:

I regret that I have not been able at an earlier date to take further action in regard to the subject of our recent correspondence. I am sending, however, this morning to the Minister of Education a letter expressing the opinion of our Senate that the exemption enjoyed by Arts students who are members of the O. T. C. should be extended to students of the Faculty of Education who take the Officer's Certificate, provided that in no case should a student be allowed to drop a Class which falls within the immediate field of his specialty (e.g. that a specialist in Classics should not be allowed to drop any Class in Classics), and that in every case the Class be selected with the approval of the Faculty of Education.

I trust that the Department will not hesitate to grant this exemption to the students in the Faculty of Education.

Yours sincerely,



March 23rd, 1915

Principal Gordon,

Queen's University,

Kingston, Ont.

My dear Dr. Gordon:

I shall be glad to take the exchange which you suggest and take the Baccalaureate address at the service on Sunday, April 25th. That day will suit me equally well, except that it is the day for the Baccalaureate service for Victoria at which I am usually present. However, I have spoken to Dr. Cowles, and he will quite understand my absence.

Yours sincerely,

President.

March 23rd, 1915

Rev. Principal Gordon,
Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

My dear Dr. Gordon:

I cannot say that I have anything very definite in the way of proposals that might be submitted to the conference of Universities, because there is nothing at present that we are particularly envisaging. There is, however, I believe a need of bringing the Universities of the Dominion together, particularly those of the West with those of the East. After the war the development of the country will demand some sort of concerted work. It is well for us therefore, I think, to talk over the whole situation with a view to working our relations as close as possible.

I may say also that Mackenzie of Dalhousie urged on me such a meeting, because so often he tells me he does not know what the other Universities are doing.

If you have any definite suggestions I shall be glad to have them, and if the other Universities desire such a conference we might draw up a provisional programme for the meeting.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 10th, 1915

Principal Gordon,
Queen's University,
Kingston.

My dear Principal Gordon:

Those who first spoke to me about the desirability of a second conference of the Universities were especially anxious that there should be a general discussion as to recent developments in our undergraduate work. We should be ready to give recent information as to changes in Matriculation or undergraduate standards. We might also consider what recognition can be given for work done, particularly with a view to graduate courses.

I hope that your Senate will be represented in such a way as to have your views authoritatively stated with regard to your academic standards and your policy in relation to the new Universities of the West Particularly.

I believe that it will be an important meeting and I regret that you yourself will not be able to be here. Our earlier day was an impossible one for Principal Peterson, and the Royal Society conflicted with other dates in that week. Do you not think that you could come for the morning, and leave on Tuesday afternoon?

Yours sincerely,

President.